

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 2 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 11 and 12 are amended and claim 10 is canceled. Claims 3-9 and 11-12 have been withdrawn by the Examiner.

Applicants' appreciate the Office Action's acknowledgement of allowable subject matter in claim 10.

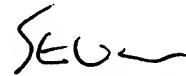
Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Kondo et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,949,294) and claim 10 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. The rejection and objection are moot because, by this Amendment, the allowable subject matter of claim 10 has been incorporated into independent claim 1.

Incorporating allowable claim 10 into claim 1 creates an allowable generic claim, i.e., claim 1. Dependent claims 3-9 are thus allowable. Furthermore, by this Amendment, independent claims 11 and 12 are now allowable because of the incorporation of the allowable subject matter of claim 10 into those claims. It is respectfully requested that the withdrawal of claims 3-9 and 11-12 by the Examiner be reconsidered and that these claims be re-entered.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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